



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

### **Medical doctor sentenced on charges of health care fraud and obtaining a controlled substance by fraud**

**Washington, D.C.** - A medically trained doctor, David T. Hackney, has been sentenced to three years of probation for committing the crimes of health care fraud and obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced today.

Hackney, 44, of Temple Hills, Maryland, was sentenced in the U.S. District for the District of Columbia before the Honorable John D. Bates on October 17, 2007. Judge Bates also ordered that the defendant pay restitution in the amount of \$1,791.96 to Medicaid. Hackney pled guilty to the charges in December 2006.

According to the Statement of Offense signed by the defendant at the time of his guilty plea, Dr. Hackney was a licensed medical doctor in the District of Columbia, with a psychiatric practice. From 1992 to May 2005, the defendant worked at a facility seeing patients with psychiatric issues. While at the facility (which was a Medicaid provider), Dr. Hackney had access to the patients' names and Medicaid numbers, as well as other identifying information.

The defendant's DEA number expired on October 31, 2005. From August 2005 to May 2006, the defendant used names of Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries in order to obtain oxycodone from pharmacies which then charged Medicaid or Medicare for the prescriptions. Generally, when the defendant arrived at a pharmacy he would inquire as to the availability of a oxycodone product; typically, the defendant requested the higher strength tablets. The defendant would then write a prescription for a large number of tablets containing oxycodone; many times he would wait for the prescription to be filled, pick up the prescription, sign the pharmacy's log, and would then leave the pharmacy with the oxycodone.

The beneficiaries whose names were used by the defendant to obtain the oxycodone prescriptions did not in fact receive the oxycodone. The pharmacy billed Medicaid (and in one instance Medicare) for the prescriptions as they were under the false understanding that the beneficiaries would be receiving the medication.

In addition, the defendant wrote prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances without proper and current registration with DEA. Specifically, the defendant wrote multiple prescriptions for oxycodone, including many for Percocet, from November 1, 2005 to May 2006, all the while lacking a valid, current, DEA registration number.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor commended Special Agent Tracy McFadden, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Inspector General, Detective Samuel Woodson of MPD, Special Agent Sandra Adams of Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Investigators Majorie Palmer-Nisby and Sandra White-Hope of DEA, and Special Agent Mark Dargis of the FBI. In addition, they commended Legal Assistant April Peeler and Assistant U.S. Attorney Virginia Cheatham.

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